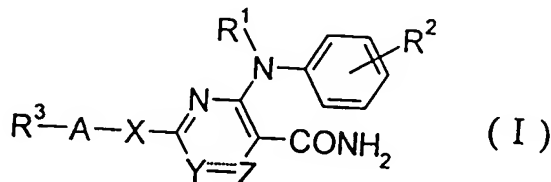


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claim:

1. (Amended) A heterocyclecarboxamide derivative represented by the general formula (I) or a salt thereof.



wherein the symbols in the formula have the following meanings:

A: a lower alkylene which may have substituent(s), an arylene which may have substituent(s), a heteroarylene which may have substituent(s), or a cycloalkylene which may have substituent(s);

X: NR^4 , CONR^4 , NR^4CO , O, or S;

a dotted line between Y and Z: presence ($\text{Y}=\text{Z}$) or absence ($\text{Y}-\text{Z}$) of a bond;

Y-Z: $\text{N}(\text{R}^5)-\text{C}(\text{O})$, $\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{N}(\text{R}^5)$, $\text{N}(\text{R}^5)-\text{N}(\text{R}^5)$, or $\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{C}(\text{O})$;

$\text{Y}=\text{Z}$: $\text{N}=\text{C}(\text{R}^6)$, $\text{C}(\text{R}^7)=\text{N}$, $\text{N}=\text{N}$, or $\text{C}(\text{R}^7)=\text{C}(\text{R}^7)$;

R^1 , R^4 : H, a lower alkyl, $-\text{CO}-$ lower alkyl, or $-\text{SO}_2-$ lower alkyl;

R^2 : H, a lower alkyl, a halogen, a lower alkyl substituted by halogen(s), $-\text{O}-$ lower alkyl, $-\text{S}-$ lower alkyl, $-\text{O}-$ aryl, $-\text{O}-$ lower alkylene-aryl, $-\text{S}-$ lower alkylene-aryl, nitro, cyano, $-\text{OCH}_2\text{O}$, or $-(\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{CH}=\text{CH})-$;

R^3 : $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $-\text{CO}_2-$ lower alkyl, $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{CO}_2-$ lower alkyl, $-\text{CONHOH}$, $-\text{CONHO}-$ lower alkyl, $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{CONHOH}$, $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{CONHO}-$ lower alkyl, $-\text{NH}_2$, $-(\text{NH}_2 \text{ in a prodrug form})$, $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{NH}_2$, or $-\text{lower alkylene}-(\text{NH}_2 \text{ in a prodrug form})$;

R^5 : the same or different, H or a lower alkyl group;